

TRUE NORTHERNER.

Published Every Wednesday.

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The saloon must go.

A REAL live queen has been at the white house, and Groven went to dinner with her. How nice! Just too lovely for anything!

CHAIRMAN WESTON of the democratic state central committee, is reported as saying that he doubts the patriotism of an American citizen who will not take a drink on the Fourth of July. Evidently, he has been misrepresented. "Democracy," not "patriotism," was, without doubt, the word he used.

It is reported that President CLEVELAND, who has never been west of the city of Buffalo, thinks of making a trip to the far West. By all means let him carry out his intention. He will be surprised to learn that there are some portions of the country lying west of his native town that are worthy of the notice even of the chief executive of the nation.

The capital punishment bill that passed the Michigan house of representatives was killed in the senate by striking out all after the enacting clause. Undoubtedly that was the best disposition to make of it. While there are some aggravated crimes for which people are apt to think even hanging is an inadequate punishment, a return to the death penalty is repugnant to the advancing civilization of the age.

A DESPERATE effort is being made by the graveyards to defeat Representative CROOK'S insurance bill. The exposures made by the committee that investigated those rotten institutions, the graveyard insurance companies, disclosed a state of affairs that is simply horrible and that is a shame and disgrace to the fair fame of our state. Every newspaper ought to ventilate the frauds until the people are aroused and make a demand for their suppression that will be heard and heeded.

Nobody contends that the short lines of railroads can afford to carry passengers for two cents a mile, nor does anybody ask that they be compelled to do so. What the people want, what they have a right to expect and what they demand of their representatives is that the great trunk lines shall carry as cheaply in Michigan as they do in New York. Two cents a mile is ample now if three cents was a fair price twenty years ago. If the people don't get the reduction they are asking for, they will have a right to think and will think that it is owing, in some degree at least, to the fact that the legislative pocketbook is bulging with passes.

It is frequently asserted by those who do not know what they are talking about, that there is no use of prosecuting those who violate the present liquor laws of Michigan, for the reason, as they allege, that conviction cannot be obtained. The records prove that such is not the case. The official reports of the several prosecuting attorneys of the state made to the attorney general—of which the NORTHERNER recently received a copy—show that 584 prosecutions were instituted during the year ending December 31st, 1886, for violation of the liquor law, and that 357 convictions were secured. This does not include cases of drunkenness, which are reported under a separate head, but is made up of offenses committed by the saloonists themselves. We doubt if a greater per cent of convictions was obtained for other offenses, even the common ones of assault and battery, larceny or the like. This showing certainly indicates a much greater degree of success in such prosecutions than has generally been understood to be the case.

A LITTLE discussion arose between County Treas. BUTLER and Lawyer THOMAS of South Haven, as to whether the law required a justification of the sureties on a druggist's bond. Mr. BUTLER wrote to Attorney General TAGGART, who gave it as his opinion that such justification was not required. With all due deference to the Hon. Mr. TAGGART, the NORTHERNER don't believe his judgment in the premises is correct. A clause in the statute regulating the liquor traffic reads as follows: "There shall also be annexed to each bond required by this act an affidavit of each surety thereto, which affidavit shall state that the affiant is worth a sum equal to the amount of the bond, over and above all indebtedness and exemptions from sale on executions and all liability on similar bonds." As the above clause is a part of the act for the regulation of the sale of liquors by druggists as well as by saloons, it would seem that "all bonds required by this act" must include druggists' as well as saloon bonds, and such was the view taken by the county treasurer.

What Shall We Do about It?

There was no paper in Michigan that labored with more zeal than the TRUE NORTHERNER to secure constitutional prohibition, and it is ready to pursue the same course again whenever the opportunity shall present itself. It knows that such a measure is ardently desired by a very large portion of the voters of Michigan; indeed, it has no doubt that a majority of the people of the state, including our mothers and wives, sisters and daughters, who are as deeply interested in the matter as the voters, are decidedly in favor of such a measure. And it also believes that the happiness and prosperity of the people and the welfare of the state would be best subserved by engraving absolute prohibition in the constitution.

But, at the present time, such a thing has been placed beyond our reach. It must be years, at the very least, before the question can again be submitted to a vote of the people, and the question to be decided, the practical question of the hour, is what is the best course to pursue now in the matter of

controlling the traffic in intoxicating beverages? The NORTHERNER believes that local option by counties is the most practical and available means at command for such a purpose, and is therefore emphatically in favor of that plan.

But local option implies a choice between two systems. It must be a choice between local prohibition and regulation, or between local prohibition and free whiskey. There is a class of people who oppose high taxation, because they say it is recognizing and compromising that which is wrong, and whose argument, if followed to its legitimate conclusion, would remove all restraint from the traffic. They acknowledge that full and complete prohibition is entirely out of their reach, but because they cannot obtain that they will have nothing. It is as though a hungry man wanted fish for dinner but, being unable to get fish, will starve rather than eat any other kind of food. With this class of people, the NORTHERNER has no sympathy whatever. They are simply obstructionists and, instead of aiding in the temperance work, are an actual hindrance to all true reform.

Placing a burdensome tax upon any trade, occupation or business is not recognizing it and licensing it, but is placing it under the ban of the law, under restriction and control; and the kind of local option the NORTHERNER would like to see is not a choice between prohibition on the one side and free whiskey on the other, but a choice between absolute prohibition in an entire county and a traffic weighted down with burdens and hampered with as many legal restrictions and prohibitive features as it is possible to have thrown around it.

It is for this reason that, while advocating the enactment of a local option law, the NORTHERNER favors the BATES bill now pending before the legislature, which bill raises the tax on all saloons to the sum of five hundred dollars, increases the amount of bonds required, compels the business to be carried on in a front room exposed to the gaze of the world, unprotected by curtain or screen, places the saloon under the supervision of the supervisor of the township, who must make a monthly report to the county treasurer, compels, under a severe penalty, the county treasurer, sheriff and prosecuting attorney to take official notice of all violations of the law by saloon-keepers, forbids one saloonist from going on the bond of another, allows no billiard tables or other gaming apparatus to be kept in a saloon or bar-room, retains all the prohibitive features of the present law and adds others of like character.

The NORTHERNER believes that a choice between local prohibition and such a measure as the one proposed, is far preferable to a local option between prohibition and an unrestricted traffic, and therefore hopes and expects the BATES bill will become the law of the state. It would be pleased if it could say that it expected the passage of that bill would be followed by the prompt enactment of a local option law, but it fears such is not to be the case; and yet, if the legislature shall fail to give the people of such localities as have by their votes shown their desire for a prohibition of the iniquitous traffic, an opportunity to suppress it, it will have failed to do what it should do and will be derelict in its duty to its constituents.

Realizing that, should a local option law be adopted, there is a large number of counties in the state that will not avail themselves of its provisions, the NORTHERNER believes that the traffic should be restricted, burdened and hedged about with difficulties, obstacles and hindrances, so that in such counties its power for evil may be curtailed as much as is practicable. While waiting patiently for the time when full and complete constitutional prohibition may be obtained, the NORTHERNER plants itself on the platform of prohibition for those who will accept it and stringent regulation for those who refuse it.

A Voice from Home.

Davis Winnie of Ulster county, was the recipient of a letter from Mrs. Winnie, Thursday, written in verse. The lines proved entertaining to those members who were lucky enough to see them. They were as follows:

Husband, dear husband, come home to me now,
From Albany, its care and harm;
'Tis lonely without you, why do you not come
And see to the things on the farm?
You told me when you were elected last fall,
If I would but once let you go,
You surely would come ere the winter was gone;
Of course I believed it was so.

Husband, dear husband, come home to me now,
I'm sniffing the odors of spring;
You've stayed long enough in the capital there,
You're much sicker under my wing.
The old horse is pawing in the stable like mad,
The colt's in a terrible stew,
The small brindle heifer has got a white calf
And the cattle are howling for you.

Husband, dear husband, come home to me now,
I'd like to observe what you're at;
When will you get through with your bills and resolve,
And speeches by this one and that?

Your mileage is paid by the longest way round,
Between the state house and your home;
No matter, my dear, don't travel that way,
But take the short cut when you come.

The voice of your Betsey is calling you, dear,
It's nearly time to make soap;
And some of the women are saying, my love,
I'm giving you quite too much rope!

They say there is desperate flirting up there
With widows and maids not a few,
I haven't been kissed since the morning you left,
But, Davis, how is it with you?

Come home! Come home!
You hear me, you rascal, come home!

—Albany Cor., New York Herald.

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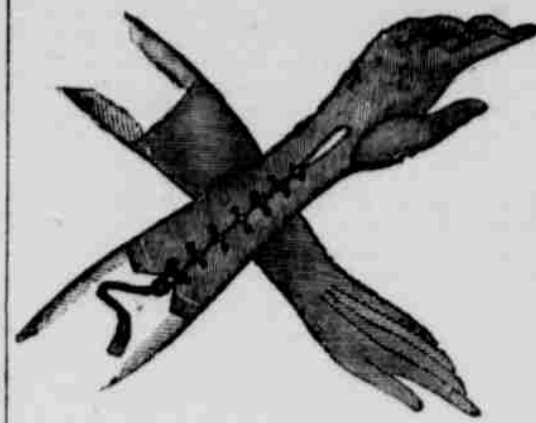
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